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**INFORMATION REPORT**

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DATE DISTR 6 April 1954

COUNTRY East Germany

SUBJECT Session of the Democratic Bloc

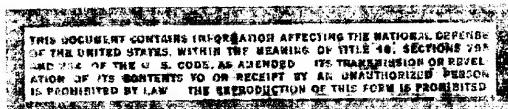
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SUPPLEMENT TO  
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- 25X1 1. On 1 February 1954 a session of the Democratic Bloc was held in East Berlin. Present among others at the meeting were: Ilse Thiele, DFP, chairman; Walter Ulbricht; Otto Grotewohl; Gerald Goetting, East CDU Secretary-General; Ernst Gordenbaum, Chairman of the DDR and Vice President of the Volkskammer; Otto Nuschke, Deputy Minister President and Chairman of the East CDU; Hans Lech, Co-chairman, LDP, Deputy Minister President and Minister for Finance; Lothar Bolz, Chairman, NDP, Deputy Minister President and Foreign Minister; Fritz Otto (presumably of the SED CC); and Hermann Matern, Vice President of the Volkskammer and Chairman of the SED Central Party Control Commission. East German Deputy Minister-President Walter Ulbricht was the main speaker. He complained that not enough emphasis was being placed by the East German press of all parties on the propaganda campaign concerning East Germany's stand on the Four-Power Conference. He further pointed out that newspaper coverage had been limited to factual reporting of what progress the conference had made and that not enough attention was being paid to the SED Party line. Ulbricht then brought up the point that the "voluntary" pledges of East German activists in honor of the DDR Memorandum to the Foreign Ministers' Conference were not being handled properly by the East press. For example, activists' opinions on the Conference should appear on the first page of the newspapers, and at least three fourths of one of the inside pages should be devoted to their ideas. This must be done if the papers are to give the appearance of being organs of the working population. East NDP papers were criticized for relegating coverage of the East German policy statement to the back pages of their newspapers in order to fill the front page with factual coverage. The Berlin East CDU organ was even more at fault: its article on the subject was in the lower left-hand corner of the first page and furthermore used a headline which did not mention the Memorandum, but demanded free elections. Other papers also failed to recognize the importance of the Memorandum and did not use their first pages to propagandize it.
2. Newspapers which are principally for the rural and agricultural population continue to devote eighty percent of their first pages to agricultural questions and problems, almost totally ignoring the Conference and

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Molotov's statements. The Freier Bauer was particularly criticized. Because the Memorandum has been so poorly exploited by the press and has had so little effect on both East and West Germany, Ulbricht said, it is necessary to restate the East German position so that only basic questions are treated. Ulbricht considered the strengthening of the position of East Germany in the eyes of West Germany the most important goal at present. East Germany's principal and immediate goal is to "isolate" Adenauer and his government.

3. Gerald Goetting reported that the Bezirk chairmen of the CDU were to meet on 4 February to discuss the government Memorandum on the Four-Power Conference and to decide how it should be disseminated to the grass roots in the most effective manner. The decisions reached at this conference will then be passed on to functionaries on the lower level at the East CDU Bezirk conferences (Konferenzen), which are to be held in mid-February. The CDU hopes especially to reach those party members who belong to the Christian fraction of the party and who have so far resisted the East CDU party doctrine. Grotewohl pointed out that from the propaganda point of view the sensational approach, such as maintaining that the Eden Plan is really the Adenauer Plan, is of little consequence at this critical time and will do little to win the confidence and trust of the population. Grotewohl ended his statement with the admission that the political immaturity of the East German population had made possible the success that the Western powers had had with their demands for free, All-German elections.

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